



U.S. Department of Justice

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S))Q
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ELECTION DAY HOTLINE: (312) 469-6157

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO CONDUCT ELECTION DAY MONITORING

CHICAGO -- The U.S. Attorney's Office will monitor the municipal elections in Chicago and surrounding suburbs on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced today. As part of the monitoring effort, the office will operate a hotline for candidates or the public to call to report any complaints relating to voting. In addition, Assistant U.S. Attorneys will be available to respond to complaints as needed.

The hotline number is **(312) 469-6157**.

"This office has a long tradition of monitoring the polls on election day," Mr. Fitzgerald said. "Our goal is to ensure the integrity of the balloting process."

Coordination of the monitoring efforts and subsequent investigations, if any, will be directed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gillum Ferguson. The FBI and the U.S. Marshal's Service will assist in this effort by following up, if necessary, on any election fraud complaints.

Violations of federal voting rights statutes carry penalties ranging from 1 to 10 years imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000.

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